

GOVERNOR'S P-20 COORDINATING COUNCIL
UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
General Meeting – September 15, 2009

Location: 1700 W. Washington
Governor's 2nd Floor Conference Room
Phoenix, AZ

Members Present: Dr. Carol Peck, John Arnold, Dr. Pauline Begay, Dr. Karen Butterfield for Superintendent Tom Horne, J. Elliott Hibbs, Lisa Graham Keegan, Dr. Michael Kearns, Dr. Marv Lamer, LaVelle McCoy, Colleen Niccum, Dr. April Osborn, DeAnna Rowe, Joel Sideman, and Dr. Jim Zaharis.

Members Absent: Dr. Linda Arzoumanian and Vince Yanez

Guest Presenter: Don Houde

Council members and invited guests participated in a light luncheon from 12:15-1:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions, Roles and Responsibilities

Dr. Carol Peck welcomed the Council members and guests to the first meeting of the Governor's P-20 Coordinating Council. Dr. Peck thanked and commended Governor Brewer for establishing the P-20 Coordinating Council. The Council provides a public forum for addressing public education improvement and reform throughout the entire continuum, from early childhood through life-long learning. Dr. Peck stressed that members were all appointed by the Governor and were selected based on their current roles, experience, confidence and influence with Arizona's citizenry.

Dr. Peck advised the public that, if they wished to address the Council, a "request to speak" form needed to be submitted to staff in order to be recognized during the Call to the Public portion of the meeting.

Dr. Peck asked the Council members to briefly introduce themselves.

Dr. Peck asked that members take the time to familiarize themselves with the Executive Order as it provides the general framework and direction for the Council's future work, including:

- Members may not send designees to represent them at the Council meetings except for the Superintendent of Public Instruction; and
- Members who miss more than three consecutive Council meetings are subject to replacement at the sole discretion of the Governor.

Dr. Peck stated that the Council is here to improve education for all students in the state, and it is important that:

- Input reflects this higher-level goal.
- The members all represent a certain constituency and have the responsibility to take the discussions, recommendations and general work of this Council back to their respective boards, commissions or constituencies and to engage that body in discussion, in action and to inform their work. She also indicated that the members have the responsibility to bring to this Council the relevant work of their boards, commissions or constituents in order to inform the Council, align the work and to find the

common ground to ensure success in improving and strengthening the entire education continuum in Arizona.

- This Council does not have the time or ability to tackle every single issue—and not every individual idea presented will make its way into various initiatives or policy. The Council’s work must have a statewide impact affecting every student in Arizona.

2. Work of Council/Task Forces

Debra Raeder, Executive Director of the Governor’s P-20 Coordinating Council, provided the Council with an overview of the work of the Council and its appointed task forces.

Debra thanked Dr. Peck for the grant from Rodel to provide supplies and refreshments for Council meetings.

Debra stated that the Council must ensure that any proposed recommendations or policies hold the system accountable, streamline education across the grades, prepare students for postsecondary education and training, increase pathways through and success in postsecondary education, and are ultimately sustainable. Recommendations must ensure efforts that will be efficient, productive, sustainable, and provide students with the best education possible. The Council must move faster than ever to strengthen and reform the education system in Arizona.

Debra outlined the four task forces that have been established and announced the chairs:

- Standards and Assessments Task Force, chaired by Jack Lunsford, President & CEO of WESTMARC;
- Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems, chaired by Cathleen Barton, U.S. and Arizona Education Manager for Intel Corporation;
- Great Teachers, Great Leaders, chaired by Dave Howell, Director of Government Relations for Wells Fargo; and
- Supporting Struggling Schools, chaired by Marc Osborne, Deputy Director of Government Affairs for R&R Partners.

These task forces align with the four reform areas under the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund and with Race to the Top efforts. The objectives for the task forces include:

- Review data, information, and reporting requirements related to reform areas;
- Disseminate information and gather innovative ideas for design and implementation of statewide education initiatives;
- Prioritize initiatives for statewide education reform including impact, sustainability and funding;
- Collaborate with other task forces to identify interdependencies and develop integrated recommendations;
- Present statewide initiative recommendations to the Governor’s P-20 Coordinating Council; and
- Work to implement Council approved recommendations.

Debra reviewed the initial timeline and proposed steps for the immediate work and indicated that the task forces will serve as the public venue to vet proposals and make final recommendations for the Race to the Top application.

3. State Fiscal Stabilization Fund

Karla Phillips, the Governor’s Education Advisor, presented the Council with an overview of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

(ARRA). Arizona's allocation was \$1.017 billion to offset education cuts to K-12 and higher education as well as to encourage progress along the four reform areas. The funds are to be distributed in two phases: two-thirds of the SFSF were sent to the State under Phase I; the state must apply for the remaining one-third under Phase II, which will be distributed in the fall of 2009 following a more detailed state application to the US DOE.

Karla reviewed the proposed requirements under each of the four reform areas.

Following the presentation, Dr. Peck asked for questions from the Council regarding this information. Regarding the proposed requirements for standards and assessments, Dr. Jim Zaharis requested the definition for the requirement that the state provide the number of students who complete at least one-year's worth of college credit within two years. Dr. Peck indicated that staff would research and provide a response to the Council. Elliott Hibbs expressed concern that early childhood did not appear to be reflected in the ARRA requirements or expectations. LaVelle McCoy requested information on how current education data is collected, stored and retrieved. Dr. Karen Butterfield and Don Houde from the Arizona Department of Education provided a brief overview of the K-12 data system.

4. Remarks from the Governor

Governor Janice K. Brewer joined the Council meeting at approximately 1:50 p.m. and provided remarks. The Governor expressed her appreciation to the Council members for their participation on the P-20 Coordinating Council. The Governor stated that the work of the Council was of critical importance, not only because of the mandates under the stimulus funds and efforts to prepare an application for Race to the Top funding, but to ensure implementation of policies and initiatives that will provide all Arizona students with access to an efficient, productive, accountable and sustainable education system across the continuum. Governor Brewer charged the Council to move quickly and decisively in bringing forth recommendations to strengthen the education system in Arizona.

5. Race to the Top

Dr. Deb Duvall, Special Advisor to the Governor, provided the Council with an overview of the Race to the Top (RTTT) Fund, which provides for competitive grants for states to reward and support education reform in the four priority policy areas. Race to the Top will reward states that have created the conditions for reform and for increasing student achievement. Race to the Top will also provide incentives for states to develop and implement comprehensive reform strategies that are integrated across the four ARRA reform areas. Race to the Top plans must be comprehensive, coherent and measurable. The plan must describe how the policies and practices in the four education reform areas are designed to increase student achievement, reduce the achievement gaps across student subgroups and increase the rates at which students graduate from high school prepared for college and careers. Dr. Duvall reviewed the indicators and descriptors that must be addressed by the state and the timeline for developing the RTTT application.

Additionally, in order to file an RTTT application, the state must have an approved Phase II SFSF application and cannot have any legal, statutory or regulatory barriers to linking data on student achievement or student growth to teachers and principals for the purpose of teacher and principal evaluation.

6. Questions

Dr. Peck called for questions or comments from the Council on any information presented to the Council. Lisa Graham Keegan expressed concern that local districts have bargained away their ability to link data to teacher performance and that the state must ensure there are no barriers in law,

policy or administrative practice to this grant requirement. Council members requested information on legislation that affects this requirement. Dr. Peck indicated that she would work with staff to provide this information.

7. Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems

Don Houde, Chief Information Officer for the Arizona Department of Education, provided an update to the Council on the Arizona Education Data Warehouse's primary objectives, assurance supports, critical components, key near-term milestones, and how the Department is working with key stakeholders in preparing an application for the State Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) grant. The SLDS application must address the 12 elements of a longitudinal data system identified under the SFSF and RTTT grant applications, as well as seven additional elements that address P-20 linkages; interoperability; a teacher-student link; teacher certification and preparation data; information for principals, teachers, and parent decisions; data quality audits; and meets reporting requirements. The grant application is due on November 19, 2009, and could result in a \$10 million average award for three years.

Dr. April Osborn stated that there was much dialogue regarding the interface between K-12 and institutions of higher education indicating that the private institutions want to be part of this discussion.

The Council engaged Don in a brief question and answer period.

8. Call to the Public

Dr. Peck made a call to the public. There were no requests to address the Council.

9. Next Steps

Dr. Peck announced that the next two meetings of the Council would be on November 9 at 1:00 p.m. and December 7 at 1:00 p.m. A light luncheon will be provided for Council members prior to both meetings.

Dr. Peck warned the Council that communications with each other are subject to open meeting laws. Dr. Peck thanked the Council again for their participation and the work they will be doing on behalf of Arizona's more than one million students.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, LaVelle McCoy motioned and Dr. Pauline Begay seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.